

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183059 TOSEC 080305

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN , CG

SUBJECT: VANCE MISSION: CONDITION OF SENATE SUPPORT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MULCAHY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED AUGUST 1 TO YOU FROM SENATORS HUMPHREY AND CLARK HANDED BY DAN SPIEGEL, HUMPHREY STAFFER TO ROBERT STRAND, ACTING DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS, TO BE DELIVERED BY HAND. SPIEGEL EXPLAINED LETTER CONTAINS SENATORS' RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR A \$20 MILLION SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOAN FOR ZAIRE PACKAGE OF A \$40-60 MILLION. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, WE BRIEFED SPIEGEL EARLIER THIS WEEK AND SPIEGEL THEN DISCUSSED OUR PROPOSAL WITH HUMPHREY. AFTER HUMPHREY CONSULTED WITH CLARK THEY DRAFTED FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOU:

2. QUOTE DEAR MR. SECRETARY: WE HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE LEVEL OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. INCLUDED, AS YOU KNOW, CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE A SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM LOAN FOR \$20

MILLION. WE ARE FURTHER INFORMED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES TO PROCEED WITH THIS LOAN USING SECTION 113 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 1974 PENDING THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST IN THE NORMAL MANNER.

THE INITIATION OF A SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ZAIRE SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM THE EXISTING U.S. ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR AFRICA. WE NOTE, ALSO, THAT THE USE OF PROGRAM LOANS IS A PRACTICE WHICH THE CONGRESS HAS SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE. THEREFORE, WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATION WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO US THROUGH AMBASSADOR VANCE, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO CONGRESS CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL THROUGH THE REGULAR AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION PROCESS. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S REPRESENTATIVES, WHO APPEARED BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TWO WEEKS AGO REGARDING THE FY1976 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS, DID NOT MENTION THIS MAJOR NEW PROGRAM.

GIVEN THE FACT THAT NO PRECEDENT EXISTS IN LAST YEAR'S AID AUTHORIZATION FOR A PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE OR MAGNITUDE IN ZAIRE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF SECTION 113 WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE. WE HOPE INSTEAD THAT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR ZAIRE WILL BE SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE NORMAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. WE ASSURE YOU OF OUR COOPERATION IN CONSIDERING SUCH A REQUEST AT THAT TIME.

WITH BEST WISHES. SINCERELY, HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DICK CLARK
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS UNEXPECTED REACTION FROM SENATE SIDE PARALLELS CONGRESSMAN PASSMAN'S REACTION WHEN HE PROMISED TO "HOLD A HEARING" AS SOON AS HOUSE RETURNS FROM RECESS. AFTER RETURNING TO OUR DRAWING BOARD WE WILL HAVE PROPOSALS FOR REPLY TO HUMPHREY AND CLARK READY SHORTLY AFTER YOUR RETURN. INGERSOLL
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